

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-127297 to Tanimoto.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicants amend claims 1-9 to further define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are presently pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-127297 to Tanimoto. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

(i). Independent claims 1, 4, 6, and 8:

With respect to independent claim 1, as amended, Applicants respectfully assert that Tanimoto does not teach or suggest at least a controller that decompresses the image data included in the image information when identified information included in header information indicates that the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis. The Office alleges on page 3 of the Final Action that “Tanimoto discloses at paragraphs [0034]-[0038] that the electronic mail is received by the system and stored in memory, a TIFF is extracted and analyzed to determine if the header information is in a predetermined sequence, and the image is decompressed (converted to dot data) if the system judges the arrangement to be correctly sequenced. Thus, the reference of

Tanimoto does disclose control means which immediately decompresses the image data included in the image information when the attribute and the image data are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence and therefore the claim limitation is anticipated by the reference.”

In addition, the Office alleges on page 2-3 of the Advisory Action that “Tanimoto discloses receiving TIFF data via electronic mail, detecting reception of the image identification information associated with the TIFF data, and converting the data into dot format when the image identification information is detected (Tanimoto, paragraph, [0013]). Further Tanimoto discloses in paragraphs [0034]-[0038] that the predetermined header information is added to the electronic mail that is to be transmitted. Upon reception of the electronic mail, the system separates the electronic mail into MIME data and mail header information and TIFF image data. It is well known in the art that TIFF header information outlines the structure of the TIFF file. Tanimoto states that a TIFF file is analyzed to determine if an image file directory is arranged in a certain order so the system can process the image data.” As a result, the Office asserts that “Tanimoto discloses “control means which determines whether or not the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence from the header information received by the communications means, and if determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence, the image data is immediately decompressed.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, the “controller” determines whether or not the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis from the identification information included in the header information. In contrast to the Applicants’ claimed invention, paragraphs [0034]-[0038] of Tanimoto teach that

step 5 (alleged to be a control means) is used to judge whether or not a data following the offset values is a desired data. In another word, each incoming TIFF file is required to be analyzed so that an arrangement of the data in the instant TIFF file can be determined. This is because none of the incoming TIFF file includes identification information in the header part indicating that the instant incoming TIFF file has the data in a known order. Thus, it is necessary for Tanimoto's system that each incoming TIFF file as a whole must be analyzed using the offset value whether data included in the TIFF file are arranged in a sequence.

On the contrary, in the present invention, image information processing apparatus generates additional information, a part of the image information, prior to sending the image information to the network. In addition, the image information processing apparatus determines the order of data arrangement from the additional information upon receipt of such image information. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Tanimoto does not teach or suggest "a controller that decompresses the image data included in the image information when the attribute information is acquired, when identifying information is included in header information pertaining to the image information, the identifying information indicates that the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis."

Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of claims 4, 6, and 8 are distinguished over Tanimoto for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Tanimoto does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 1, 4, 6 and 8, thus, Tanimoto fails to anticipate at least the independent claims 1, 4, 6 and 8.

(ii). Independent claims 2, 5, 7, and 9:

Independent claim 2, as amended, recites an image information processing apparatus including, in part, “an output unit that outputs the generated information, wherein the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, and the image information includes identifying information indicating that the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in header information of the image information.” The Office Action on page 4 alleges that Tanimoto discloses the conversion between the two formats. Specifically, “the system converts the data into a TIFF format containing header information and image data (paragraph [0030], lines 1-4). The header information and image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence that will be checked after the data is received, converted to dot data, and finally printed out ([0034]-[0038]). Thus, there is a negotiation between the electronic mail service and the facsimile device to transfer the data, change the data into TIFF format, made up of header information and image data, and determine if the TIFF format is in a predetermined sequence, upon which if it is judged to be correctly sequenced, the data is converted into dot data for ultimate output.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, additional information (such as identification information) is stored in the header information to indicate that the instant image data has the data in the known predetermined order. **Applicants respectfully assert that Tanimoto does not disclose storing any such information in the header in addition to the image data.**

In contrast to the Applicants' claimed invention, Tanimoto at paragraph [0028]–[0030] teaches that the facsimile device is adapted to create the TIFF files without additional signal that specifically indicates the arrangement of the image data. In addition, the system of Tanimoto appears that no information indicating whether the image information has a sequential format is communicated via a network between the facsimile device (terminal device) and the external device.

Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of claims 5, 7 and 9 are distinguished over Tanimoto for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Tanimoto does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 2, 5, 7 and 9, thus, Tanimoto fails to anticipate at least independent claims 2, 5, 7 and 9

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Accordingly, in light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request that rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn because Tanimoto fails to anticipate at least the features of independent claims 1, 2 and 4-9. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 3 is not anticipated by Tanimoto because of its dependency from respective independent claim 2.

CONCLUSION

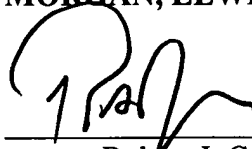
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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